

COURTESY COPY OF CLAIMS:

The pending claims are as follows:

1. (Previously amended) A mounting system for a pellicle comprising:

a mounting structure for coupling a pellicle to a mask, wherein a sealed interior portion is formed between the pellicle, the mask and the mounting structure;

a port on the mounting structure through which a pressure difference can be created between the interior portion and an exterior environment;

a pressure regulator in communication with the port to control a pressure in the interior portion; and

a velocity sensor to determine the velocity of the pellicle, wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the velocity sensor.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a source of high pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator, and a source of low pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator.

4. (Original) The mounting system of claim 3, wherein one of the sources of pressure gas is the exterior environment.

5. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a pressure sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator for detecting a pressure of the interior portion.

6. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a position sensor to determine the position of the pellicle;

wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the position sensor.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a calibrated leak from the interior portion to the exterior environment.

9. and 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mounting structure.

12. (Previously amended) A pellicle mounting system for a mask, the mounting system comprising:

an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mask, the fairing having a taper to reduce aerodynamic drag on the pellicle and a portion that is co-planar with the pellicle.

13. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 12, further comprising:

a mounting structure for coupling the pellicle to the mask, wherein a sealed interior portion is formed between the pellicle, the mask and the mounting structure; and

a port on the mounting structure through which a pressure difference can be created between the interior portion and an exterior environment.

14. (Original) The mounting system of claim 13, further comprising:

a pressure regulator to adjust a pressure in the interior portion;

a source of high pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator; and

a source of low pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator.

15. (Original) The mounting system of claim 14, further comprising a position sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the position of the pellicle;

wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the position sensor.

16. (Original) The mounting system of claim 14, further comprising a velocity sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the velocity of the pellicle;

wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the velocity sensor.

17. (Original) The mounting system of claim 13, further comprising means for controlling the pressure difference to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle.

18. (Previously amended) A method of reducing distortion of a sealed pellicle for a mask, the pellicle being sealed to the mask to form an interior portion therebetween, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a velocity of the pellicle using a velocity sensor; and
regulating a pressure in the interior portion to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on the velocity.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of providing an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mask to reduce turbulent airflow across the pellicle.

20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the pressure is also regulated according to feedback from at least one of a pressure sensor coupled to the interior portion, and a position sensor for the pellicle.

21. (Previously Added) The mounting system of claim 12, wherein an aerodynamic fairing is provided adjacent each end of the mounting system that faces a direction of movement of the mounting system.

22. (Previously Added) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising a retractable plate

for providing a substantially continuous surface between the aerodynamic fairings.

23. (Previously Added) The mounting system of claim 12, wherein the aerodynamic fairing further includes a curved surface between the taper and the portion.

24. (Previously Added) The mounting system of claim 12, wherein the aerodynamic fairing exposes a whole surface of the pellicle.